

What YOU SAID About the BUILDING

Answers By: YOU

Compiled and collated by: Shanda Licop (Board Vice Chair)

Power Point and Presentation Notes: Rev. Debbie McMillan
October 30, 2022

Let's start with who do I mean by YOU? (slide)

The congregation of St. Andrew's was invited to attend two visioning workshops. One on Saturday October 1, another on Sunday, October 2. Each date required registration. Numbers for the 2nd were higher and we decided to just keep that date.

6 people registered for Sunday, Oct 2nd.

35 People (or more) actually attended. Not everyone who attended signed the attendance sheet which was circulated.

Our visioning model was "Open Spaces".

Open Spaces began with ice breakers to intentionally build community. Rev. Debbie and I felt this was a really important step because our St. Andrew's family hasn't been together enough. Ice breaker games help bring us together by helping us interact with one another.

"Open Spaces" is a method of community visioning that Rev. Debbie had been taught to use in one of her previous congregations under the direction of Ron Ewart from the TUCC (Toronto United Church Council). As Rev. Debbie went through the St. Andrew's archives, she was delighted to discover that "Open Spaces" was used here -at St. Andrew's in the early 2000s by Eric and Marilyn Bacon.

Why Open Spaces?

We wanted people to answer some questions that were designed to capture thoughts about the building.

We realize that people need to be able to talk about the building but may have different points of view.

Open Spaces allows people to share their perspectives with the organizers (that being Rev. Debbie and I) while keeping focused on the task at hand.

Tables were set up in the sanctuary. Each table had a question written on a coloured piece of paper. Each table also had a *box like this to put answers into.*

People were told they could start wherever they wanted. They could talk with folks around the tables as they answered the questions. They were also told they could take the questions, go back to their seat.

The vast majority of attendees took the questions back to their seats and filled them out.

What were the questions?

Rev. Debbie and I created questions based on information necessary to the visioning process as it pertains to the physical plant/building. Remember, friends, a church is people. People make the Body of Christ. Where the body of Christ is gathered is a building.

Anonymity was part of this answering process. To be clear, the United Church of Canada practices Holy Manners (which can be found in The Manual). That means when we are talking about people, we MUST name ourselves and be fully accountable for our words either in print or spoken. These questions are about the building itself, its condition, its perception its usefulness to our current community and communities of the future. The questions are NOT about the people who use the building.

These were the questions.

- 1. What do we already know about the community, which surrounds this physical plant?**
- 2. “We are missing out on opportunities to grow our presence in the community because of our building.” What do you think? Why?**
- 3. List all the advantages of our current physical plant.**
- 4. List all the disadvantages of our current physical plant.**
- 5. Where do you live? Add your Pin to the map.**
- 6. Without looking it up on your device or on the walls, can you recall the church’s mission statement and/or purpose statement? If so, please write it.**
- 7. Please list some potential community partners that are not worshipping communities.**
- 8. What do you think of when you hear the word, “sustainable?”**
- 9. Any other thoughts about the building (physical plant)?**
- 10. 10 years from now, what do you think this building will look like?**

You will see in the report all the answers captured precisely as they were given (Spelling errors and all). You will also see the art display Rev. Debbie and I made using all the answers we received. It would take too long to go through them all now. For that reason, written copies of the raw data are available on our visioning board. They will also be shared through our webpage and in The Loop in the ongoing interest of transparency and open communication. We will also be referring to this throughout the Visioning Journey.

For today, we're only going to look at the "consensus points".
Consensus points are things people talked about in response to being asked these questions.:

There were 5 major consensus points.

4 consensus points concerned the inside of the building.

1 consensus point was about the outside of the building.

So the first consensus point: ACCESSIBILITY.

The consensus point came up at a ratio of 41:35

(Top answers)

24 people: said we need more accessibility.

9 people: said the offices should be on the main floor.

8 people: raised concerns about the basement not being accessible.

The second consensus point: THE SANCTUARY

This consensus point came up at a ratio of 25:35

(Top answers)

9 people: appreciate the acoustics

7 people: find the sanctuary to be good

5 people: feel the sanctuary is adaptable

4 people: like the AV sound system

The third consensus point: INTERIOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

This consensus point came at a ratio of 23:35

(All the answers)

Hot/cold problems in sanctuary

Lack of air conditioning in sanctuary and lower-level rooms

No AC in sanctuary

Lack of good ventilation

Lack of air conditioning in sanctuary in summer-maybe longer periods if global warming speeds up

Old furnace

Old windows
 Hot in summer
 Cold in winter
 Need: A/C in sanctuary
 Air conditioning
 Comfort (AC)
 Heating (lack of insulation)
 Sanctuary not air conditioned
 Heating
 Cooling
 Roof not insulated
 Asbestos
 Musty smelling
 Lower level rooms smell musty
 Mustiness in lower level
 Asbestos tiles in floors and ceiling in basement
 Limitations on uses of property due to asbestos and other factors (age accessibility etc)

The fourth consensus point: THE KITCHEN

The consensus point came at a ratio of 14:35

5 people: said it was too small.
 3 people: said it should be connected to the CE Hall
 2 people: said it is small but good
 2 people: said it is out of date
 1 person: said the kitchen is great for rental
 1 person: said it's a good kitchen

The fifth consensus point: THE LOCATION AND LAND

The ratio was 25:35

(Top Answers)

8 people: feel like the parking lots are good and like that we have paved lots
 5 people: feel that our location is good and centrally located
 4 people: feel like the property is a good size
 3 people: feel that the building is a familiar, established presence in the community

Two other interesting pieces of information that emerged from the answers.

- 1) 65:35 of the answers celebrated the positive things about the land and the building: most of the answers had to do with the location and the land.

- 2) 111:35 of the answers mentioned making significant changes to the current physical plant.

Respondents who are unable to turn in their answers during the workshop can insert their answers in the boxes no later than Sunday, November 6th. Once they have been added to the Rev. Debbie and I have added them to our statistics with special notations to our reports, we will issue a second edition of the question results.